

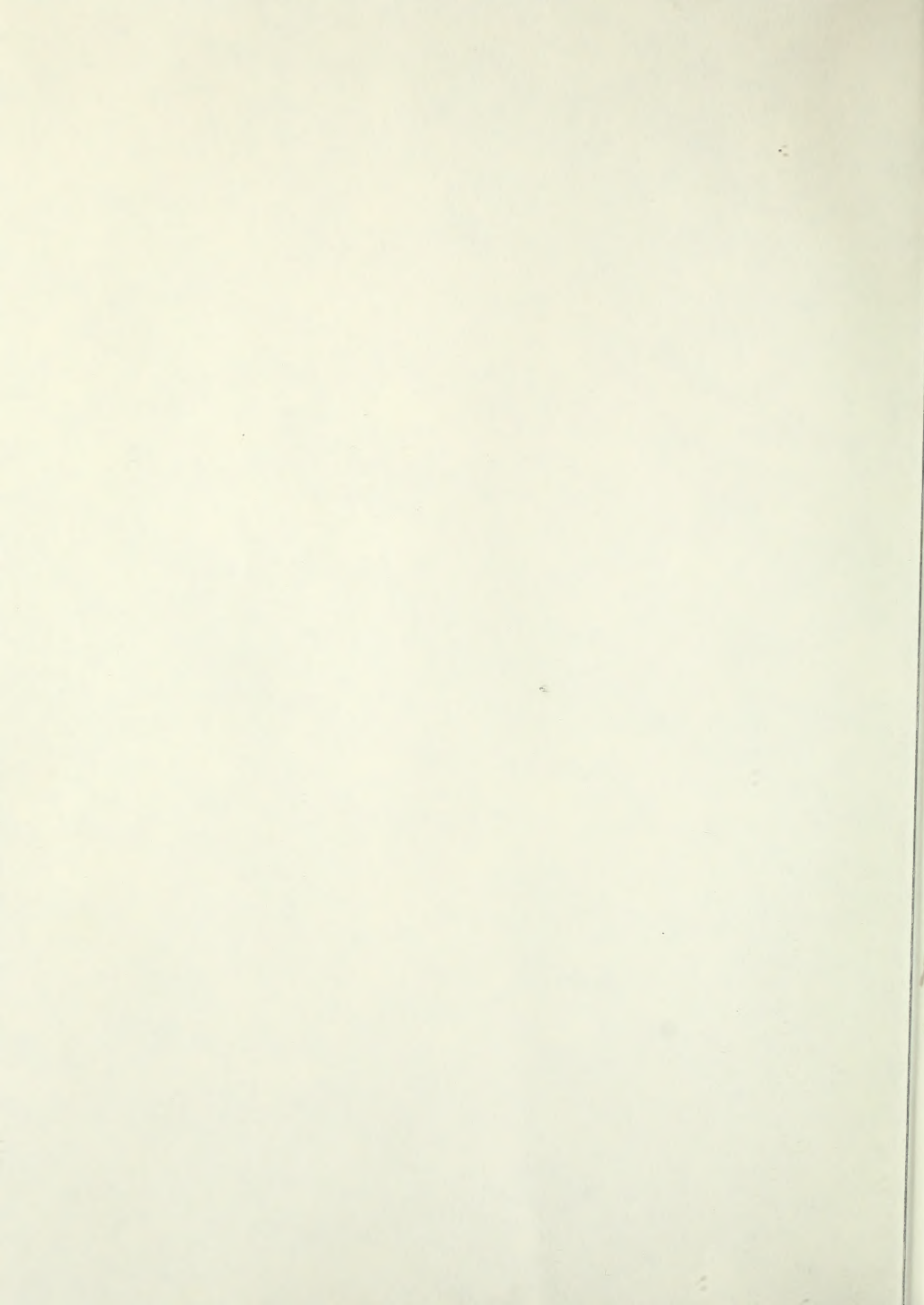


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**CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF JOHN PENTELOW,
9TH MICHIGAN CAVALRY, 1864-1865**

[Owned in the 1960s by Clyde W. Pentelow, 327 Clark St., Plymouth, IN]

[Copied for the collection of the Allen County Public Library under the direction of
Fred J. Reynolds in the 1960s]

Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
PO Box 2270
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270

Nicholsville Ky July 8th 1864

My Dear wife it is with great Pleasure that i
 Now embrace opportunity to write a few lines to you
 Hoping they will you find all Well as thank god it
 Seemes me at this time I ever Lieutenant Hart
 Went to Union to day We got our pay yesterday
 i sent twenty Dollars by him for you to be Left
 at your old killed drug store for you untill you
 Called for it I ever am very glad that you have
 received the box not that i care so much about ^{the} things that
 Was in the Box only my Likings i now ^{that} ^{you} ^{wrote} that
 it was not took so well as it might be if he had is
 Gegerian operated a little nearer to me it would be I should
 Larger i shall ^{have} ^{another} ^{look} ^{at} ^{it} ^{when} ⁱ ^{get}
 a good chance i shall have it took & horse back
 I ever receive ^{four} letters from you i received one the
 22. 28 30 & 4, im happy to hear that you was all well
 i was sorry to hear that Charley Bellis is dead who will care
 to doze who cannot tell how soon I ever i met there
 Pouches i thought that i would send to Box one
 With Barber ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{name} ^{of} ^{Barber} ^{to} ^{you} ^{to} ^{write} ^{to} ^{you}
 but we cannot express any thing more
 yet they have not express any thing for nearly 2 weeks
 the bridge near ^{Paris} is not finished yet that the rebels
 I want our letters go through by Louisville Louisville
 fuller by id to Box closer town for over a week

he is not all & chance to find it one yet he left it to
grain house he has got some cloth in it that was
captured by the rebels he bought it of the boys him
& Barber fuller captured a horse & saddle and
saddle he sold the horse the saddle & saddle
He has been ^{turn} up now to send one if he can
i thought of sending one two Ponchoes and
my blanket my blanket his & very heavy
one i thought it would make you & good
warm blanket for the winter to keep the
Little Dears warm i dont need it much now
i can by one cheap of the boys. When they get
short of money money dont ^{last} some of them long
there is some talk of his leaving to go to
Camp Wilson to day to go and the wagon team through
two groves fuller to Barber they have just
gone down today to see if they can express there
boxes through if they can i shall try to day
and get to pass to express & box if we can
look out at the express office yesterday morning
me & Barber went to the creek and washed all our
clothes and did good bath in the water we went
down just after noon will be out our water
hot for washing at Sun rise you will find it
Loving to you all. Some more at present from
your ever affectionate friend John Penttew
Direct John Penttew Nicholsville Ky
with much love & if left forwarded to
the regiment from well

After Tuesday June 7th 1864

Dear Mary it's with great
Pleasure that I now embrace
the opportunity tworite few lines
to youoping they will find you
Well as it leaves me at this
time - Dear Wm he ad marching
orders this morning to leave
on Friday for Gorgey
this after soon there was to
Nother despatch come Not
to leave untill Monday
you ad Sister When you rite
direct your Letter to Michalsen
ville forward to the regiment
as Wm cannot tell weather
Wm shall go to Gorgey or not
Wm may have orders to go to
Somother direction the Letter
will follow me from here
Dear I sent you a Box yesterday
and a letter iope you will
get the Box & the money
all right right as soon
as you get this I will rite
again as soon as i have
opportunity it may be some
time before you hear again
if Wm go to Gorgey it his
four or five hundred miles
from here but will be a
Long march go send to the
Post office as often as you can
as I shall not fail writing
must now conclude with
my kind love & no
more at Present from
your ever affectionet husband

John Pentelott
Richardsville

9 michigan cavalry

at Fort Ward to the

regiment

write as soon as you

get this farewell

give my love to

rebecca

Nichalsville July 4, 1864

Dear Wife it is with great pleasure
that I now embrace the opportunity
to write a few lines to you of my they
will find you well as it leaves
me at this time Dear Wife have
Just received our pay our wages
are raised three dollars more
or so month since the first of may
that makes us sixteen months
our first is going to cabin
this week ^{he is going to} so I thought that
I would send it by him
I have sent you twenty dollars
I did think of sending you twenty
five dollars but wife expect
to go to Georgia this week and if we
do it may be six months before
We receive our pay again
the boys are not troubled any
pay when they are sent out
they reached us this spring

I think you
will see I will
When you may
get to get
five dollars
I have sent you
twenty dollars

When I did not get any mail
for nearly two weeks
dear your letter stated that
you are not recovered the B.C.B.
I went to the express office
last Friday to see about
they said that it was sent they
thought it must be at the
express office further sent is
the same day that I did
is folks have occurred there
so that you will better see
about it your self. I did not
pay the charges on it
the box is marked on both sides
with your name on it.
there was in it one Camelby Jacket
one pair of blue pants one pair of
flannel pants one white shirt 12 socks
some socks & hotel of color my likeness
is depicted in side the shirt that
cost one dollar fifty here that
is as much again as it would be in
adrian
with my I can't must now conclude
John Pentecost kind love to you all
Nichalsville Ky
with much Camelby C.B. love
it you'll forward to the express
11/14/1880

note as soon as possible

Saturday April 7 1865

Camp of the 9 michigan
I have mounted ^{carefully} a line with cardina
My dear wife
it is with great pleasure that
I am permitted to write a few lines
To you & my by the blessing of God to
Find you both well as thank you
it leaves me at this time

my dear I received 2 letters from
you yesterday one dated february 22
the other March 2 I was very glad
to hear from you but was sorry the
news that you was both sick
I hope the next letter I shall hear
That you are both well again
I am I feel a very much grieved
at the death of my dear child
all tho it shall be off were it is
thru if it stays in this sinful
Wicked world it will see more
trouble here my dear I hope you
will not fret & worry & about it

were it not for you it would
 come in itself simply of you some
 I dare the, rather came the other
 I say because we feared not neither
 Heedless were I would so that I
 could tell when the hour should
 become I speak to the captain
 of health of me let me write
 my Success stands as a stone
 but that it is no more sign of the
 time will some come the hour
 I shall see my one day's
 you need to the signment of sending
 nothing is not of me yet he will
 So that is that I say with the
 the standing in the hall there be
 with the company the head of it
 there is no time to form in it
 right make when I shall some have
 the papers will all say pass it they
 come to our tables they are some have
 I was Chubbston is now extraordinary is now

I thank every body for that
concern to me with the trial and
I am very glad that you have
I have for some time I should like
to be the better man if I cannot
for you to save it is what I
have for me when I have seen
some of them are like of a single
eye and they will many of
times disagree or have is the
like to take a trip after the
even to England and you will
me if you could get it
where I have not any other man
just as it is now I have seen
you some when the trial is over
and when I learn the full of the
like I am the trial is over
very well to know and in the
call in England to let the
and will many to give of you
in the next to the trial is over

I am here a little brook
I am several little things
to send one for you if the
express should ever come
here if it be I shall give you
Pay here I think there
will be express agents
appointed to take our money
through I want to send my
overcoat come to

They now are at 9 months
Pay 12 and 12 months

I write to you in the 28
instance to letters the 28 of
enfranchisement from you

my dear I must now
conclude with my
kind love. Send more at present
from your most affectionate
husband John Paulding
also give my love
to me Direct as before

Give a minute to this

the express were there of
now very few

1840

April 8 1865

Camp of the Michigan Cavalry
Co B near Mount Olive North
Carolina

My Dear wife, it is now with
great pleasure that I find it cas-
the opportunity to sit a few lines.
To you and they will find you
Well as thank you it leaves me
at this time thank you for it
My dear I am not much more
to tell you this time as I am
laying in camp and receive 2 more
letters from you since I last wrote
that makes 4 letters I am
receiving from you since they
at last I am in from Gorge
I will give you 4 of them
January 22 January 25 February 5
February 18 Feb 22 March 2 & 12
Gorge February 14

I have wrote to you ~~from~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ 28th
in April the 1st sent you 4
papers to you when where was at
Sunnah. you did not say whether
you got them or not.

My dear I must

now conclude

With my kind love
to every & you so no more
at present from your
ever affectionate Husband

John Bentham

remember me to Richard and all
enquiring friends wrote to him

Yesterday

John Bentham writes every

Edw. Sherman's address

Will Patrick's common

and are much

obliged for the time

& Stamps

With love

Camp New Dealer Sunday September 23 1864

My dear wife it is with great pleasure
that i now embrace the opportunity to write to
you and to you and your family they will find you all
Well as thank god it leaves me at this time except
Dear i received from you yesterday ^{rhumatism} dated the 24 or letter
to the other the 9 of September i was very glad to have
that you was well dear i am not very good
Now to tell you but not so bad but it might
have been worse September the thirteenth i was
detained to guard a house for a family the names
of akins at midnight i was captured & took
prisoner by four rebels akins all men & my
friend one & sent there weeks as wife ask
me at night if i would let him have ~~him~~
come one he was near at and he was by word
and time i told him yes he then came one
and some talk with him he talked union
of course as most of the rebels will to him
He told me there was a party since he had
been away of Scouts that wanted him
to go to see Pilot for them that was against
is principle he would not do that he did
He did not fight up to gun to fight yet
Heather would he in this rebellion
it might when he went to bed he fell off i heard

Heavy noise in the night not to be alarmed
I expected some of his folks there that
none that would interfere with me
about the door at night there was a cup
at the door the rebels ask the woman
if they could keep a sick soldier through
the night he was going to the hospital
and could not go any further
the woman said the guard is in the other
room they then opened my door and told me to
surrender I was then taken to the guard
pointing at the same time at me the other
man was out side with my horse they was
well armed there was no chance for me to get
away if I attempted to get away they would
have shot me in the spot there was another
guard 1/2 mile from me they got in
that is what we get by guarding rebel
property that man knows I shall always
think that he was the means of getting us
captured they then stripped my pockets they
took six dollars out of my watch pocket
took all my letters & house wife pocket knife
Postage stamps & fifty cents in change I tried
hard to get my letters they would not
give them up they got my blanket to

my jacket over coat & Bencho
Was in camp or they would have them to
they took us to ~~some~~ quarters at Stock
Bridge where crossed Stone mountain at the
Peak of day even when we got over the
mountain Part of them stayed there the
other to went on with us they left old
skins back at the mountains ask them
Why they did not fetch them along they
said they was going to let them go
every thing looks clear to me that every
th. was the means of giving us captured
those same men that captured us were seen
in their woods beside the house ever since
thurs day Friday morning they eat
Breakfast at the same house that I was
quarreling they made me take of my Boots they
were small for them or they would not them
they took the other means from him they filed
We got Stock bridge at 7 at night stayed
there untill morning then walked to Lovejoy
there we remained untill Sunday all
there was in order came out all Prisoners
this side the Tennessee river should be
exchanged when agreed to be among the
Lucky ones otherwise was 7 hundred and 20...

Came in on Sunday we walked to Jonesborough
Sunday night got there at twelve o'clock night
lay on the battle field that night as you had
with out any thing to cover us as yet
all came on in my blouse and pants & I went
Monday we walk to Suffolk & security
there is more we exchanged prisoners
that night we took the cars to Atlanta
Friday we left Atlanta walked to
Decatur & stayed at the Court house Friday night
got to our regiment yesterday Friday night was
the first time we have been under arms since we were captured
which very wet weather if it did not rain I could not have stood it
as an Indian I could not have stood it
our folks at the regiment did not see me but I was in
congratulated they all been talking of sending some
one to welcome me yesterday after I came in camp
and reported at the quarters General Weyler got me
to go out with him to show him the way so of this morning
but well would he too to them out one at a time
before dark I was back & Fred from the prison
then called me they did not know the name
they ever saw anything when I got there
The general told them that he ought to burn
the house & every thing that was in it today they
ad orders to take every thing out of the house and
move south not to count with 10 miles of this of
place on Tuesday night to day we gave burnt
the house & barns they are now in flames We
would like now to get the old man
Dear I am just back in time to see my boy
I said it today it is a lucky thing for me that
We are not allowed our pay they would have
every cent of it because is at the regiment
now they are Corporations they give to them Regiments
clearly all as well

Saturday ^{Gorge} December the 17

Camp near Kings Bridge
^{Gorge}

My Dear Wife it is with great pleasure
that i now embrace the opportunity to
write a few lines to you hoping they will
find you all well as thank god it has
not this time I am who left Atlanta
November 14, to march through Jones Bo
rough above the rebels & set fire to the
town killed and wounded several
we got one killed & wounded took prizes
of artillery. Sunday November 20th
Kell Patrick sent Company B & part of
2 other companies to Grissleville
there was seventy three of us in all
said that we must take it if we
lost every man who must go through
every thing as we was going along
When came to the cross roads on the top of
the hill there was one Brigade of rebel
Cavalry & on the low road there was
another Brigade our Brigade is four
or 5 miles.

John Smith was shot dead by my side
wounds horse was shot Barber's horse
was shot 2 other horses in our own camp
Billey was from within our camp
3 29th 30th Camp set at Lewisville
first of December did a fight 20 miles
from Winchester through 2 ad. fight
by army Battle with water
the 3 marched all night through
the swamp the 9th came to the 8th
Core 11 miles from Savannah
10 within 5 miles of Savannah
We crossed the rail road track the rails
fired grape shot & canister at us where
taken means we set off it came near
the 12 crossed 2 rivers over pontoon bridges
the 13th we got to the sea coast the western
camp at Saint Catharines Sound was good
the 13th we took fort Mackallister
We opened communications for over 1200
we did a great fight the Boatmen run
the 15th we went on to Saint
Sixty miles from camp burnt a rail
road bridges, trussel works & stone
up the track last night the 21st got by
We have some hard fighting to do on
this road to expect more
the news came last night that
Savannah is ours that Sherman
Lead quarters are there We are
the rails all through our ride
you would think that the war
must come to a close we destroy
every thing as we go through
the country Dear I did not have
time to finish my letter as
soon as I came in
we went in to Secord

August Thursday 25 1884

Come never attente
My dear wife it is with great
Pleasure that I now embrace
the opportunity this nite to pen
Lines to you saying they will
find you well I have in the
decade five or six days
it is some better to say
We have been discussing half
rushings for the last ten days
So that we are to go out foring
We cannot find much but
Green Corn think frogs that
I eat to watch of that
that fetched on the drive
I was not out hunting of it for
three or four days when I was
is coming he will be most
hunting things they hoped
over rushings of frogs for ten
days they say it is something
as the weather is warm

the rebels cut over a railroad
at Dalton since we came
through there so that we
could not get provisions
the railroad is finished now
so that we shall get through
the rail is now coming there
Last Saturday we went
out on a scout about twelve
crossed the Samuel town & ¹⁰ mile
Atlanta rail road the
Michigan cavalry the 9 Ohio
to the 9 Ohio we went in
search of the rebels we covered
two the camp ground
formed a line on Slung
our rifles ready for action
there had been some infantry
through there the same day
and cleared the out
We cut the telegraph
wires tore up the track ^{and}
and set fire to the ^{cars}

Concord

Saturday June 17/1815
My Dear wife it is with
great pleasure that i now
embrace the opportunity to
write a few lines to you
oping by the blessing of god
these few lines will find
you quite well thank god
it seems most this time
dear i am been looking every
day this week for a letter
But am not received one yet
i wrote to you the 20 of last
month i am not received a
answer yet i wrote to you
the 3 of this month i ope
you will get that today
i received 2 letters from you
the first of this month
i.e. have sent more stamps

Discharge & 3 months pay
extra i dont come in on
that order Some of our Boys
are at one they will get there
Discharge at Scot huns took
prisoner he as been one & a half
for 3 days and is back to the
Regiment he will get is discharge
and become soon in a time
from chapel hill 3 times since
ilft they sent word for me to
rite to them 2 or 3 times they sent
Word by one of the Boys that is they
to make them comisit before i speak
one i promise them i will left to write
rite to them when i get time to
send them & proper i think of it say
a few lines to them there is 2 of our
Boys going there to buy some one
Hundred thirty mile from there i dont
think it will go as where all out of money
the who can get ^{thru one} transport ^{at one} ^{and send}
and stop it out of our wages ^{at one}

Portsmouth
Concord June 28th 1855

my dear wife

it is with great pleasure that
I now embrace the opportunity
to write a few lines to you hoping they
will find you well thank God.
I thank you at present

~~for the letter you wrote me~~
I am very glad to hear that you are
well it was dated June 6th
I received 2 letters from you
the first one dated April 30th & the
second dated to receive them they
contained your likeness that I set
near it - I am very glad
that I should rather see you
I am sure that will be before long
I have to go out many times
sometimes when I have about
I shall get out when the day
is fine & I hope to see you

Sick but not very think I want you
to get it tell my dear little Emma
that she looks very nice she is growing
quite big & big she must have been
Adey & when I come on my
way and you will go to school
and my cousin & sister & I shall be
Dear I write to you the 30th June 17
The boys are all well
Dear my birth day was on 11th June
I expect you thought of it
Give my love to friends & family &
tell them I expect to see them soon
Give my love to all at 11th June & all my
friends remember me to all & to the children
Dear I must now conclude with
- I am more at present from your
ever affectionate friend
John Dintora
I will send some stamps this is the best way
to the most great of heaven
This summer the 11th June is the best
Sincerely
John Dintora

My dear friend
I am not confident

Dear I note you wrote the 2
of your last letter I received
the 23 I was glad to hear that
you was well I was sorry to hear
the children coughed I hope they are better
Dear you were speaking of writing
come to England I should like it
very much for you to visit I don't
know when I shall have a chance to get
to get my things I want to go to attend
you were speaking of my bounty
one hundred & fifty two pounds
three hundred and 2 Government
Bounty that makes four hundred
& 52 dollars if we get our
State Bounty that is fifty dollars
We would make five hundred & 2

i don't think that we shall
get that think that was stored
there was to a better look
Basil in February of one horse
I always State County and was
to early for that
the same that i was looking
after the captives horses Jailer
We looked after faint horses
then he quit that was went
then cooking that did not
Last long after he was left
Let him get better by now
at in for some thing he was
then then one morning he was
called to town for breakfast
he said you get your breakfast
and i will see then there
as the rest of us left to see
G. coming in met him he is
helping the bull farm
doctor he uses doctoring horses
Basil is promising what they
behave to be sent to him
many other but we did not hear from
one he had he did not hear from

no more of the 18th of
kind from the north west
the 11th of the 11th of the 11th
on our way one wife
We captured chickens killed
to pig and one sheep
so that we had a good
meal when we got to
camp. Samuels i took a
Prisoner to his quarters
he was at one hand & wife
and four children he
deserted the rebel army
he told me that he was
glad to get out of our lines
and to go to the miles
to take in his quarters
was at the house that
He was married in it is
Sister lived in the same

Received of the
Honble the Secy of the Navy
the sum of £1000
for the purchase of
the ship on which the 8 for
Atlantic who are drawing
rushings to day we expect
to go to Macao to ^{start} return
to release our prisoners
We have a great many
if them there we may
gett some with staying there
when we we set out
We draw one hundred
Cannon we are to leave
behind with one hundred
or sixty each Dear Blissfield
May they ^{you note} received one letter
June the 9 & 15 & 19 & 20
July the 3 & 9 & 10 & 17 that is
August the 1 to 10 ^{the time} you note
them

Nicholsville Sunday June 19 1864

My Dear Wife it is with great Pleasure that I now
Embrace the opportunity to write to tell - I wish so you & family
they will find you well as it leaves me at this time
I am is not better and I hope to you the Sixth of June wrote a
rather letter the 5th of June. Let you know that we did order
two leave the next Friday there was a rather despatch
come to say not leave until Monday they came
night one of the then marching orders to leave for
Livingston the rebels was 9 miles from town we
got there Lexington that night at one o'clock
Morgan and his men went they plundered the stores
they took Boots & Shoes & Watches all kind of yellow
broke into Banks went into the bank and stole
government horses they whipped the farmers
along the rail and take their horses from their
hives when they was plowing they would go into the
field & make them deliver their horses up - went to
two farm houses yesterday close to Nicholsville
one and two horses stole last Monday & the other one there
they leave them without horses to do their work
they went down the railroad bridge at Lewis
they cut the telegraph wires and captured trains

So that we have not no papers and letters for
Week until yesterday. I believe I got a letter & fuller
fuller sent is here when the day that I sent mine
they received it we followed the rebels to Lexington
they did a warm time & we back yesterday in morning
they killed and wounded a great many of the rebels
drove them into river drowned a great many
of men and horses captured four or five hundred
thirteenth cavalry got cut up and they only
got two or two wounded they come off well

the crysitians son got his horse shot from
 under him that was to chose call for him
 Some of ^{the} Boys made a good thing of it some
 got watches some money revolvers guns captured
 some horses that they stole mounted ^{stole} in
 on them they sold them for what they could
 full captured & horse some of them got new shoes
 like boots laded gutters one fellow got about
 two hundred Dollars i did not go further
 further then Lexington the captin was not
 along nor hurt they have Ben sick & weak
 or two Barber he was at Lexington with me
 he was there with Pack mules the Pack
 mules and her horses all stoped at
 Lexington untill the regiment came back
 When get Back to Richardsville Friday
 morning at three o'clock the roads were
 core very dusty although when we
 got to Richardsville that if i had my
 Likeness took you would not now me
 We looked more like Niggers
 than white folks My Dear must
 i now conclude with my
 duty we have Love to you all
 expecting Son more at Present from
 del your affection husband
 forster John Pentecost
 that I michigan cavalry Cb
 they think it Richardsville they
 he will have a lawyer for be than rebels
 the Boys are out and cant to come for

write as soon
 as you
 get this
 letter
 i look
 for you
 yesterday

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